

Klondyke Tailings Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site

Community Advisory Board Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday, October 6, 2005
Klondyke School House
500 ft Southwest of 36951 Klondyke Road
Klondyke, Arizona

OU# 06-040

CAB members present: Lynn Skinner (co-chair), Mark Haberstich (co-chair), Bill Griffin, Noralea Gale, Michael Bryce, and Lauralea Bott (New Member)

Members absent: John Luepke, Mark Herrington, and Alternates: Sam Sollers, Terry Cooper, and James Palmer

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Scott Goodwin (Project Manager) and Linda Mariner (Community Involvement Coordinator)

Members of the public present: Karen Martini, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR)

The meeting began at 4:15 p.m.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided upon at the meeting:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Skinner welcomed CAB members and guests. He asked the guest speaker from the Arizona Department of Water Resources, Karen Martini, to introduce herself.

2. Acceptance or changes to the May 19, 2005 draft minutes

Ms. Gale moved and Mr. Haberstich seconded for the minutes to be accepted as written. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

3. Discussion and Voting on CAB Membership – Linda Mariner

Ms. Mariner announced that she had received a letter of resignation from two CAB members, Anne Zapf and her husband, Matthew Kent, and that Ms. Lauralea Bott had applied for CAB membership. Ms. Bott explained her reasons for wanting to join the CAB as a past resident and current property owner in Klondyke, and a motion was made by Mr. Bryce and seconded by Ms. Gale to vote on Ms. Bott's application. The vote was unanimous in accepting her as the newest CAB member.

4. Nominations and Voting of CAB Co-Chairs – Linda Mariner

Mr. Haberstich and Mr. Skinner were both nominated to be the co-chairs for the next year with a motion from Ms. Gale. Ms. Bott seconded it. They were approved unanimously by the board to alternate conducting the CAB meetings with Mr. Haberstich taking his turn at the next meeting.

5. Discussion and Review of Charter – Linda Mariner

Mr. Griffin questioned the necessity of having four CAB meetings per year as required by the current charter. He suggested that the charter be changed to reflect the realistic needs of the CAB, so that CAB meetings are scheduled only when pertinent updates and reports are available for the CAB's review and discussion. Ms. Mariner pointed out that the requirement of four meetings is taken from the statutes, but she would check with her management to see if it was possible to edit the charter in this area. If it is approved, she will make the requested change and have the charter available for co-chair signatures at the next CAB meeting.

6. Update of Current Status and Activities – Scott Goodwin

Mr. Goodwin, Project Manager, presented a slide show of updated plans for the Klondyke site. Two projects at the site are being funded for this year – the early response action (ERA) and remedial investigation (RI). The ERA has three phases to it: 1) Characterization and removal of old laboratory chemicals found on the site; 2) Excavation and possible disposal of 10 targets of possible buried tanks or drums that showed up on the geophysical report, and 3) Repairs on major erosional features on tailings piles.

This next calendar year the remedial investigation should near completion. The surface soil sampling will begin with about 500 samples to be added to existing data. They will be analyzed for soil pH, arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, copper, cyanide, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, and zinc. There will also be four monitoring wells installed at the site to assess groundwater conditions. And lastly, surface water and stream sediment sampling will be done on Laurel Creek and Aravaipa Creek.

Other activities that will be taking place this year and next fiscal year are ADWR's drinking water well survey and the University of Arizona's (UA) study to find out if it's possible to revegetate mine tailings. The UA will remove about 6,000 pounds of dirt to take back to their laboratory to experiment with. Ms. Martini was there to speak about the well survey in detail during her presentation.

Sampling on the property is a major step toward selecting the remedy. Possible remedies are capping the tailings piles if no widespread contamination is found outside the property and finding some type of protection for the piles from the creek. Mr. Goodwin gave an estimated timetable for remediation of the site:

- FY06 - Finish site characterization
- FY07 - Write Remedial Investigation (RI) report
- FY08 - Conduct Feasibility Study (FS) to determine remedial options
- FY09 or FY10 (3 to 5 years from now) – Begin remediation activities.

The floor was opened for questions:

Mr. Haberstich asked why new monitoring wells were needed if they already had wells in the area from which to sample. Mr. Goodwin responded that they would use some of the existing wells for sampling, but many were not deep enough to get to the water table now. Mr. Haberstich also

asked about the water quality of those wells. Mr. Goodwin said that so far the water from the existing wells hasn't shown any contamination from the tailings piles.

Mr. Griffin observed that the last storms cut into the stream bank close to the tailings piles another 3 feet. He cautioned that if we wait too long to get to a remedy, the creek will reach the tailings before any protection gets put into place. He stated that since it is his property, he will probably put in a dike to try to get the stream to cut down the middle of the channel rather than continuing to cut towards the tailings piles and the road. He believes that the risk of flooding by the stream means that we may be sitting on a time bomb.

7. Review of Proposed Site Budget – Scott Goodwin

The proposed cost for the ERA activities in FY 06 is \$65,800. The proposed cost for the RI activities in FY 06 is \$332,200. These funds are already in the Klondyke Tailings site fund and being used. The UA study is funded by the UA and will not utilize any WQARF funds. The CAB was assured that WQARF money is secure and available to use for the site.

8. Community Drinking Water Well Survey – Karen Martini

Karen Martini presented the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) well inventory process to find all the wells in the Klondyke area in order to fulfill their contract with ADEQ. The inventory began on September 26, 2005 and would be completed on October 11, 2005. The well inventory process included the following:

- Identification of all wells located within 1 mile from the WQARF site
- Matching well-identifiers between multiple data sources
- Verification in the field of all locatable wells and determination of current status
- Collection of GPS location measurements for each well
- Administrative registration of all wells previously not registered
- Compilation of updated well information for ADEQ
- Updating ADWR well registry and groundwater site inventory database

After researching all available databases, ADWR staff concluded there were 69 wells in Klondyke, but they only located 39 wells. The raw data has yet to be evaluated, but a report should be completed in about six months. ADEQ will be using this information in their RI report.

Mr. Bryce asked that since ADEQ had flown the area for aerial photos, wasn't it possible to tie those maps to the well data? He mentioned that control points should be used to connect the well information to the aerial photos. Mr. Goodwin assured him that ADEQ would look into that suggestion.

The data showed that 47 legal wells were in the area. Ms. Martini said that a legal well must be 100 feet deep or hit groundwater. Twenty one wells were active wells. She showed a map of the location of all the active wells.

Mr. Haberstick asked if there were any wells that could not be found, and Ms. Martini replied that some of the wells that were not found were washed out. Other wells were not found because the owners were not home to give them permission to go on their property to look for them.

Mr. Bryce asked if the CAB could be provided with the well information that ADWR has collected. Ms. Martini will have the final report in about 6 months, and ADEQ will contact the CAB members to find out what information they are interested in getting. Mr. Skinner asked what the purpose of the survey was in regards to the WQARF site. Mr. Goodwin said it would be

used in figuring out the next round of regional sampling in the near future. Mr. Skinner followed up with additional questions about what percentage of all the wells surveyed had been tested and who did most of the drilling of the wells in the area. Ms. Martini replied that none of the data gathered had been analyzed yet, but that information would be forthcoming when the report was completed.

9. Call to public: None

10. Future meeting plans:

A tentative date for the next CAB meeting was set for Thursday, April 20, 2006 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Graham County General Services Building in Safford. It was decided that the CAB would alternate meetings between Safford and Klondyke. Proposed agenda items for the next meeting included the well survey report, surface water sampling results, surface soil sampling results, stream sediment sampling results, and groundwater data.

Ms. Gale made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Griffin seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.